

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

ABSTRACT

A gas mixture [[2]] containing a fuel, water and air is supplied to one end of a reforming room[[6]], and a reformed gas [[4]] containing hydrogen is discharged from the other end thereof. Two or more such reforming units are connected in series, and the upstream part of each reforming room is filled with a first catalyst [[8a]] which catalyzes a partial oxidation reaction in an oxygen-rich environment, and the downstream part is filled with a second catalyst [[8b]] which performs the reforming reaction. The gas mixture [[102]] which has been heated in a heating unit [[104]] passes through a distribution tube [[108]] and is distributed evenly to the reforming units[[114]]. The reforming room is composed of a reforming tube [[130]] in which a reforming catalyst [[112]] is charged, or two or more such reforming tubes, parallel to each other. After being reformed the high-temperature reformed gas [[118]] is passed around the reforming tubes, and fed back to a manifold[[116]].